



## **Legislative Work Group**

### **House Committees**

**Early Learning and Human Services**

**&**

**Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness**



# **PARENTING SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE Substitute Senate Bill 6639**

**June 2010-December 2011**

# PARENTING SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE IS A POSITIVE SOLUTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

❑ Research tells us that children of incarcerated parents are significantly more likely to end up in the criminal justice system themselves. The goal of this program is to help stop that cycle of criminal activity.

❑ "... those who make the adjustment with the support of their families are more likely to succeed, suggesting that the careful involvement of families in the reentry process can boost the chances of positive outcomes." Nancy La Vigne, Christy Visser, and Jennifer Castro (Dec. 8, 2004). *"Family Support is Key to Staying Out of Prison Say Ex-Offenders in Chicago"*. The Urban Institute. <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=900762>



*"This program gave me the opportunity to connect with all my kids on some kind of level, which I know would not have happened if I didn't have help from the FOSA program."*

# Parenting Sentencing Alternative

The legislation created **two** ways in which parents of minor children that have been convicted of non-violent, non-sex offenses can receive intensive supervision as alternatives to incarceration:

- **Family and Offender Sentencing Alternative (FOSA)** – Judicial Sentencing Option: Judges have the option to waive a sentence within the standard sentence range and impose 12 months of community custody along with conditions for treatment and programming for eligible offenders facing a prison sentence.
- **Community Parenting Alternative (CPA)** – allows the Department of Corrections to transfer an offender to electronic home monitoring for up to the last 12 months of his or her sentence

# FOSA - Eligibility Requirements

## **Offender must:**

- Have physical custody of his/her minor child(ren) or is a legal guardian or custodian with physical custody of a minor child at the time of current offense.
- The high end of the offender's sentence is more than one year (presumptive prison sentence).
- Sign a release of information waiver regarding current and/or prior child welfare involvement.

## **Offender may not:**

- Have current or prior convictions for a felony sex and/or violent offense.
- Be subject to a deportation order.



# CPA -Eligibility Requirements

## **Offender must:**

- Have physical custody of minor child(ren), or have legal custody of a minor child,
- *Has a proven, established, ongoing, and substantial relationship* with his or her minor child that existed prior to the commission of the current offense; or is a legal guardian of a minor child at the time of the current offense.
- Have up to 12 months remaining on their prison sentence.
- Sign a release of information waiver regarding current and/or prior child welfare involvement.

## **Offender may not:**

- Have any *current* convictions for a felony sex and/or violent offense.
- Be subject to a deportation order.

## **Department of Corrections:**

- The department determines that such placement is in the best interest of the child.
- Additionally, the department considers nature of harm, visitation, infractions, and overall programming while incarcerated.

# Multi Disciplinary Screening Committee

In order to ensure that the “best interest of the child” is being met, and eligible offenders are selected to participate on the CPA program, a screening process was put in place by the Department of Corrections.

Screening process includes:

- Assessing what is in the best interest of the child
- Nature and extent of convictions
- Relationship to the child prior to incarceration
- Extent of parental role
- Infractions while incarcerated
- Program participation in prison

Committee recommendations for transfers are sent to the Secretary of DOC.

# Multi Disciplinary Screening Committee

The members represent the following organizations and agencies:

Children's Administration

Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

Department of Commerce – Crime Victim Advocacy

Department of Corrections

Department of Early Learning

Department of Health - Women's Services

Economic Services

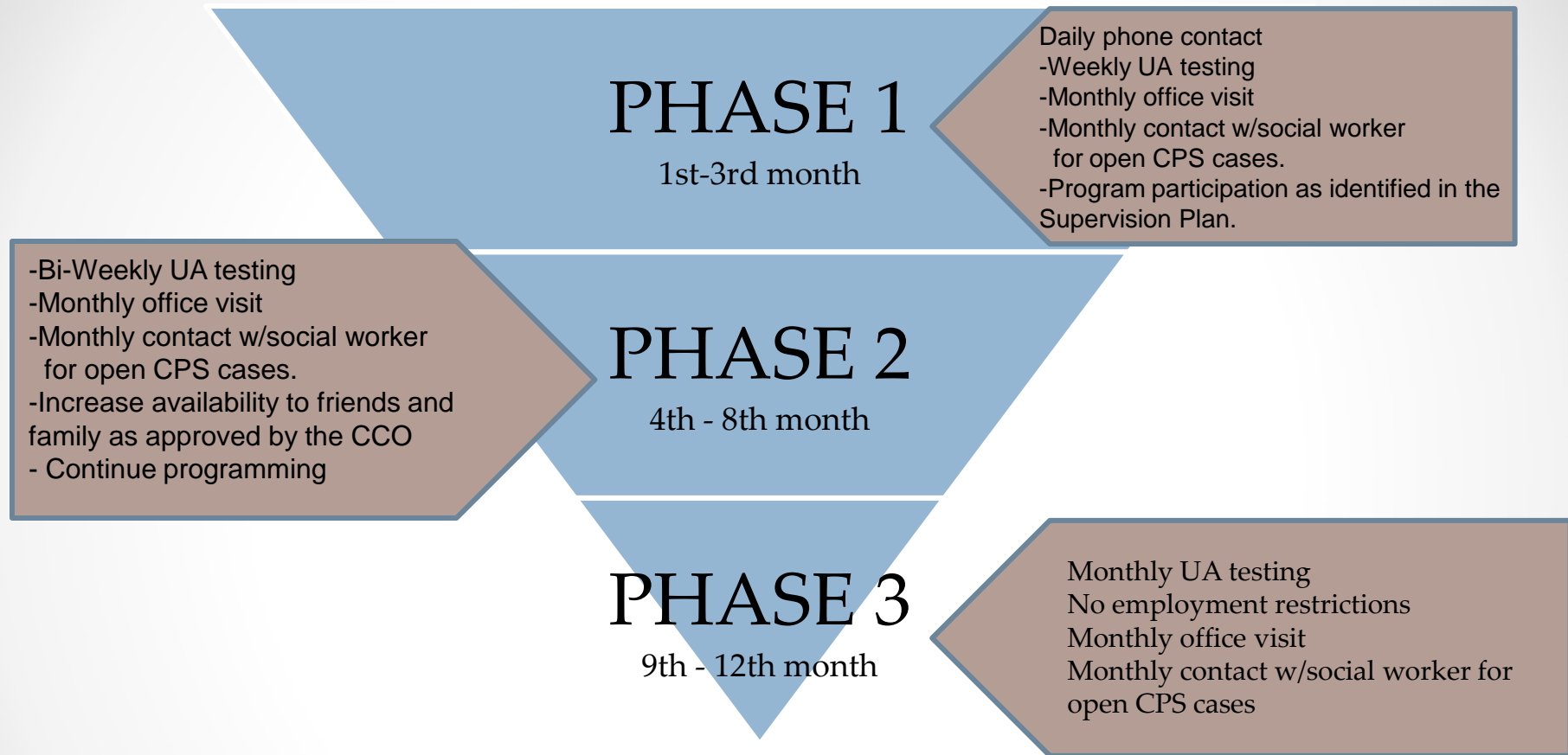
Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration

Rebuilding Families Inc.

Child Psychologist/Developmental Specialist

DOC continues to look for partners who will further ensure that the  
*"best interest of the child"* is being met.

# COMMUNITY SUPERVISION/MONITORING PHASE SYSTEM



*Must be infraction/violation free for 30 days prior to advancement. If a violation/infraction occurs the offender is reduced by one phase.*

*"I feel my positive life changes has increased my self-worth and self-esteem tremendously."*



# Partnership with Children's Administration

## Information Sharing

- Community Corrections Officers
- Inmate In-Services

## Resource Sharing

- Services

## Aligning the Practice Approach with Families

- Solution based casework

## Case Collaboration on Open Cases

- Case Planning
- Family Monitoring

## Case Consultation

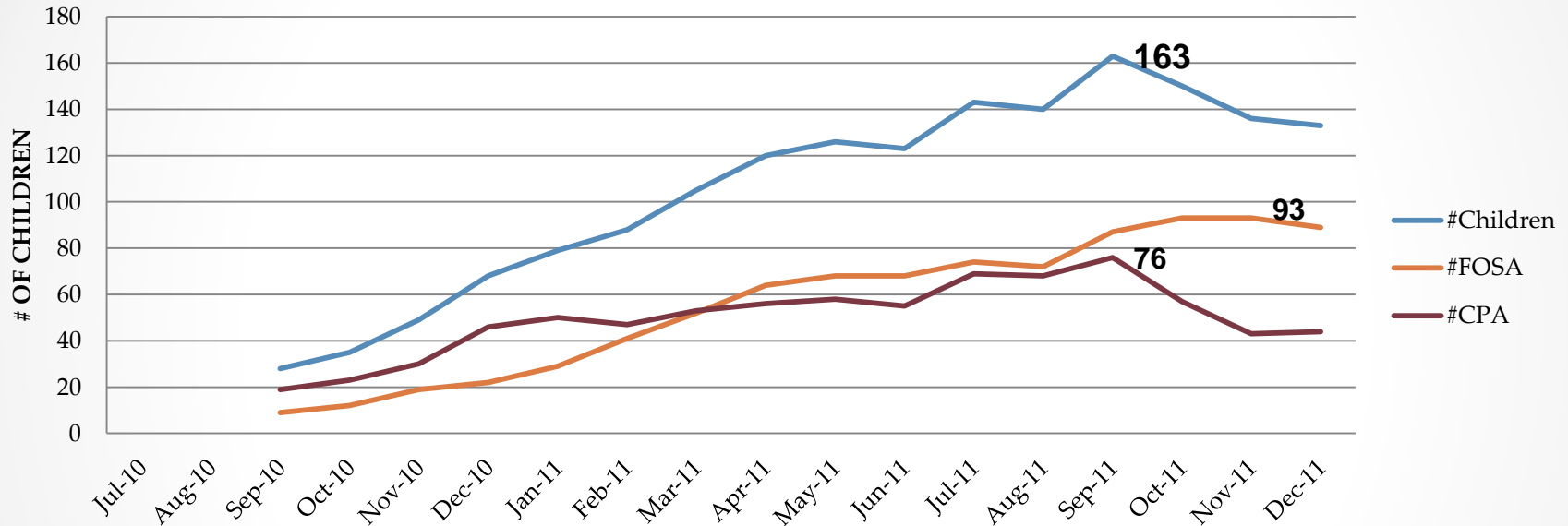
- Social Work Academy
- Solution base casework



*"Coming home for me was like a culture shock because I was gone so long, but this program helped me 'ease' back into things instead of being 'plunged back' in."*

The children of the offenders serve as the focal point of the program. As of Dec. 2011, as many as **163** children ranging in ages birth to 18 years of age have participated in the program.

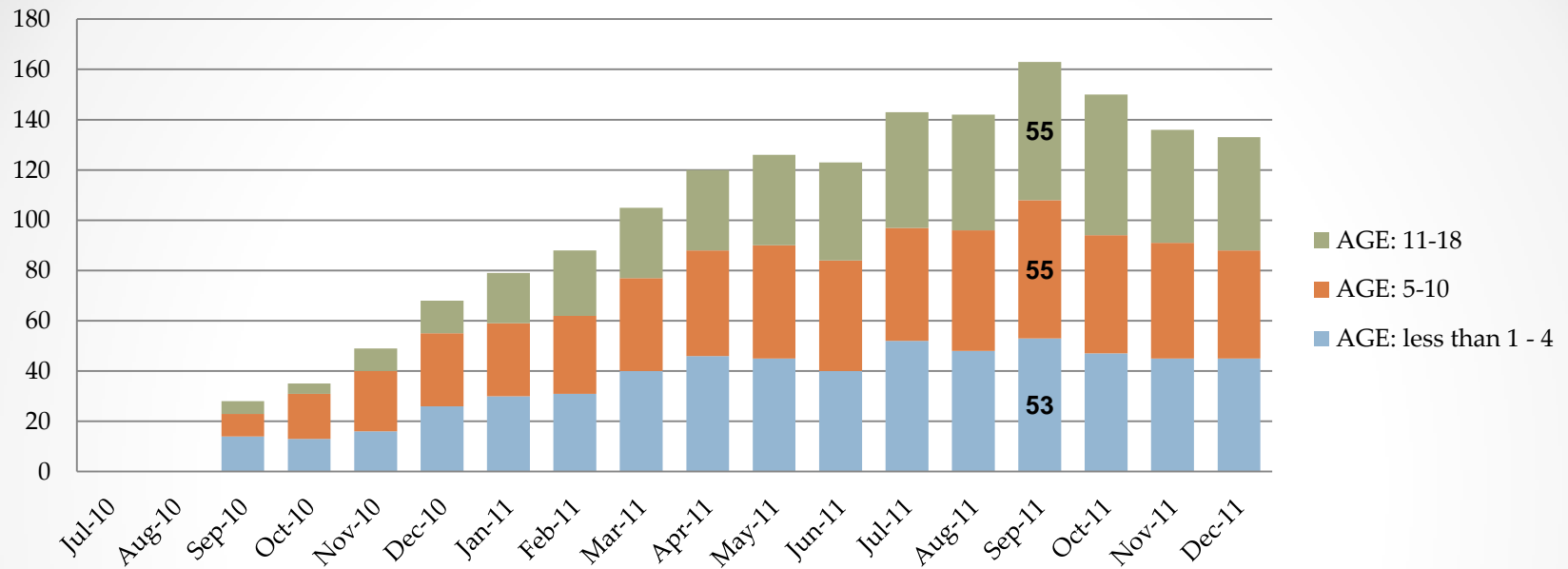
### Children of Offenders on Program



\* Figure includes duplicates

Average of 105 children per month are impacted by both FOSA and CPA program combined. 53% of the children come from FOSA parents, and 47% come from CPA parents.

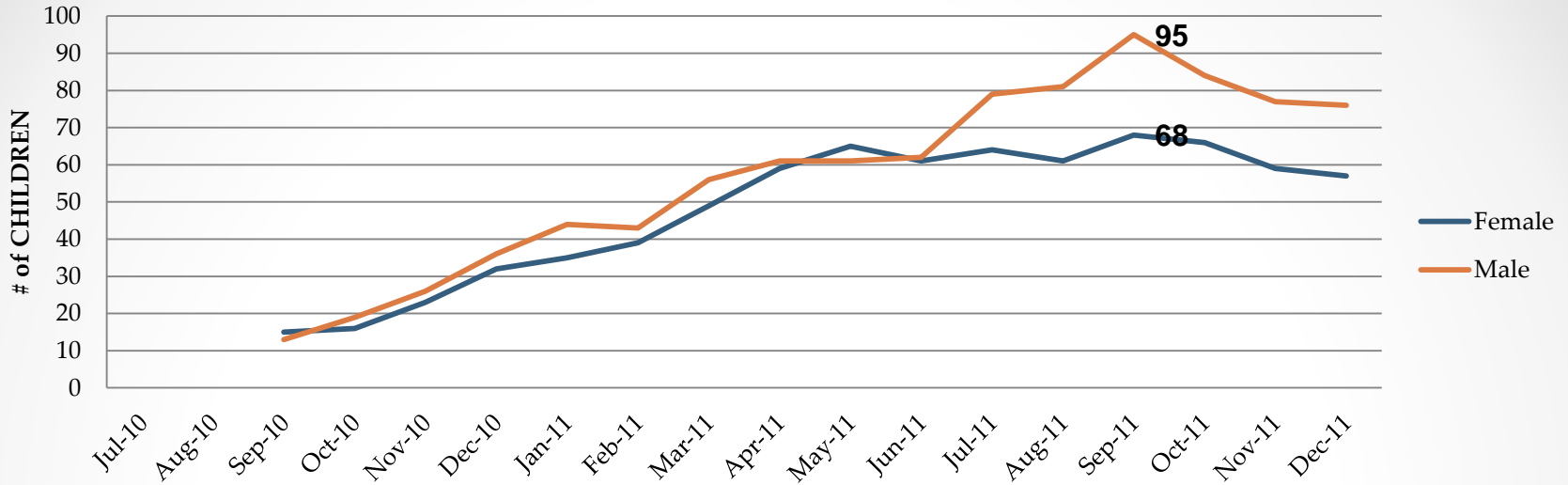
## AGE BREAKDOWN of CHILDREN



*\* Figure includes duplicates*

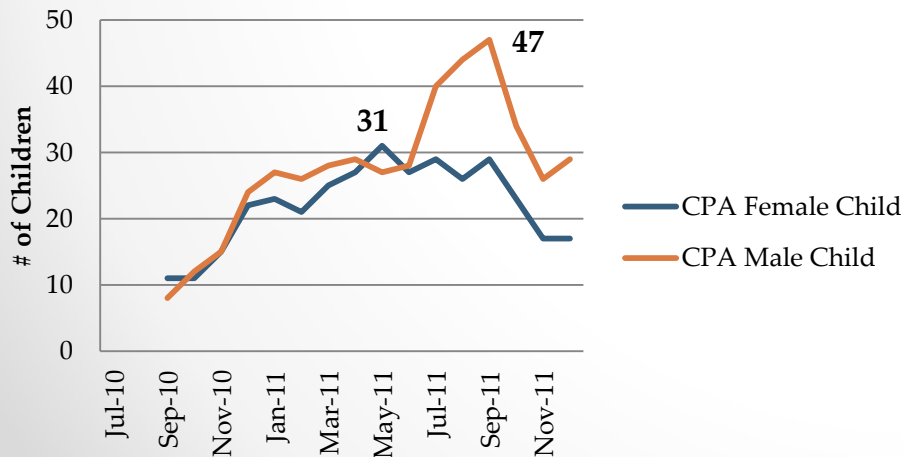
On average, the distribution of ages does not differ significantly from one age group to the next.

# GENDER BREAKDOWN of CHILDREN

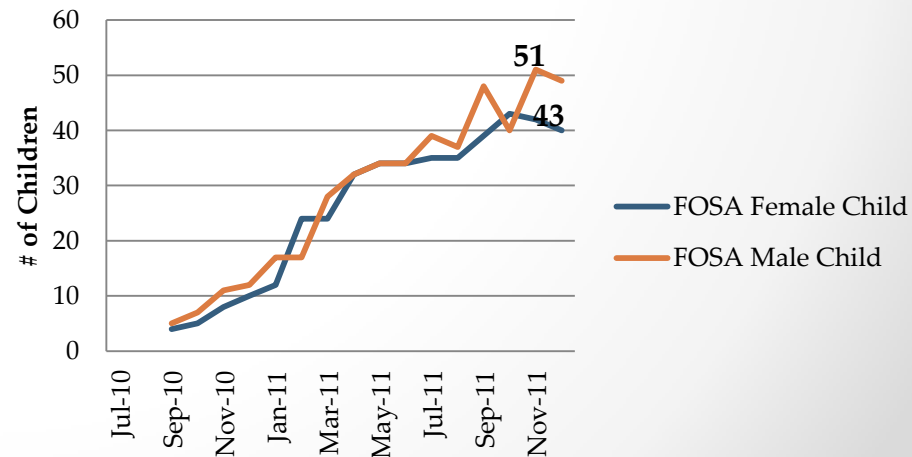


*On average 45% of the children are female and 55% are male.*

## CPA Children

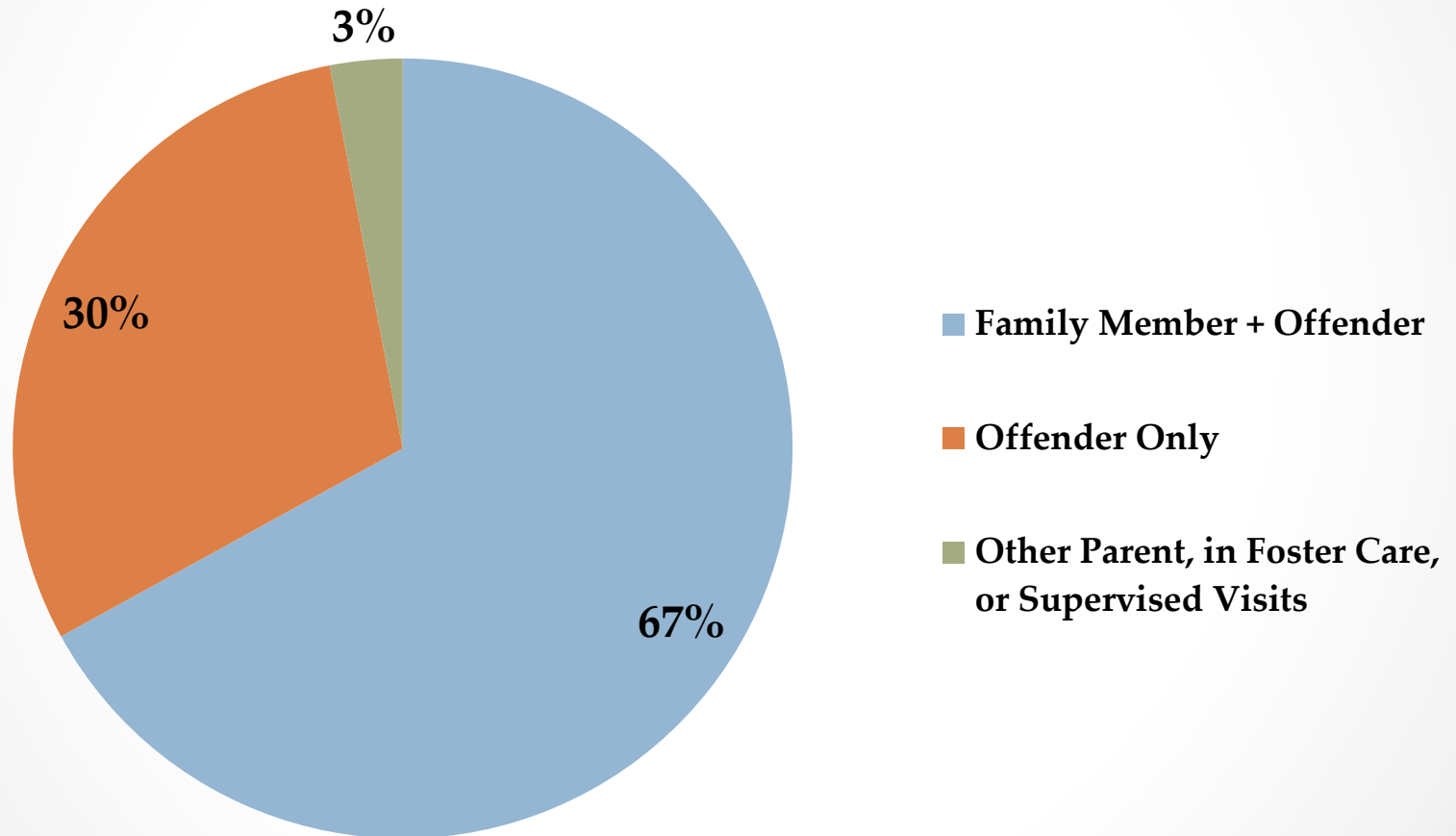


## FOSA Children

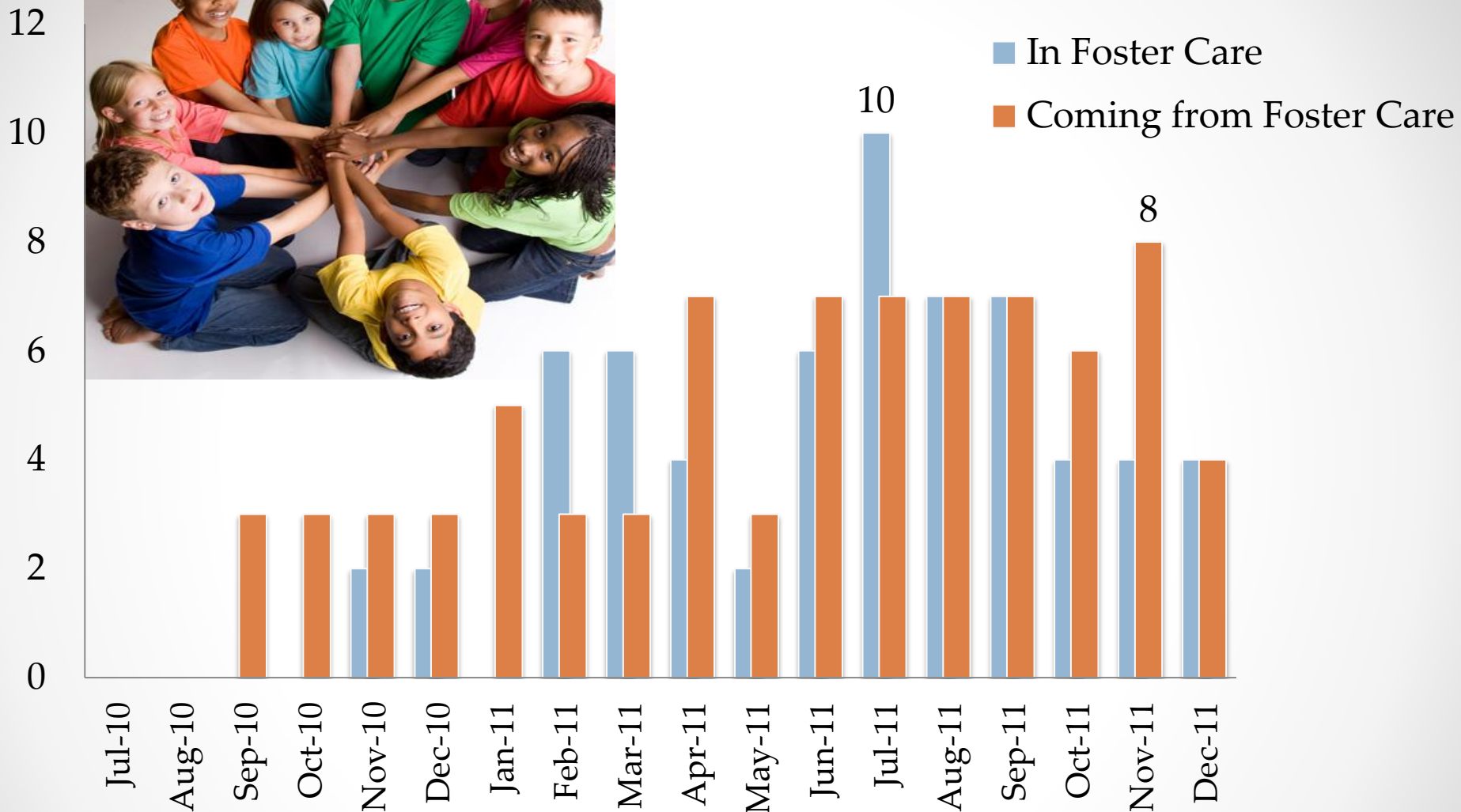


*\* Figure includes duplicates*

## Location of Children



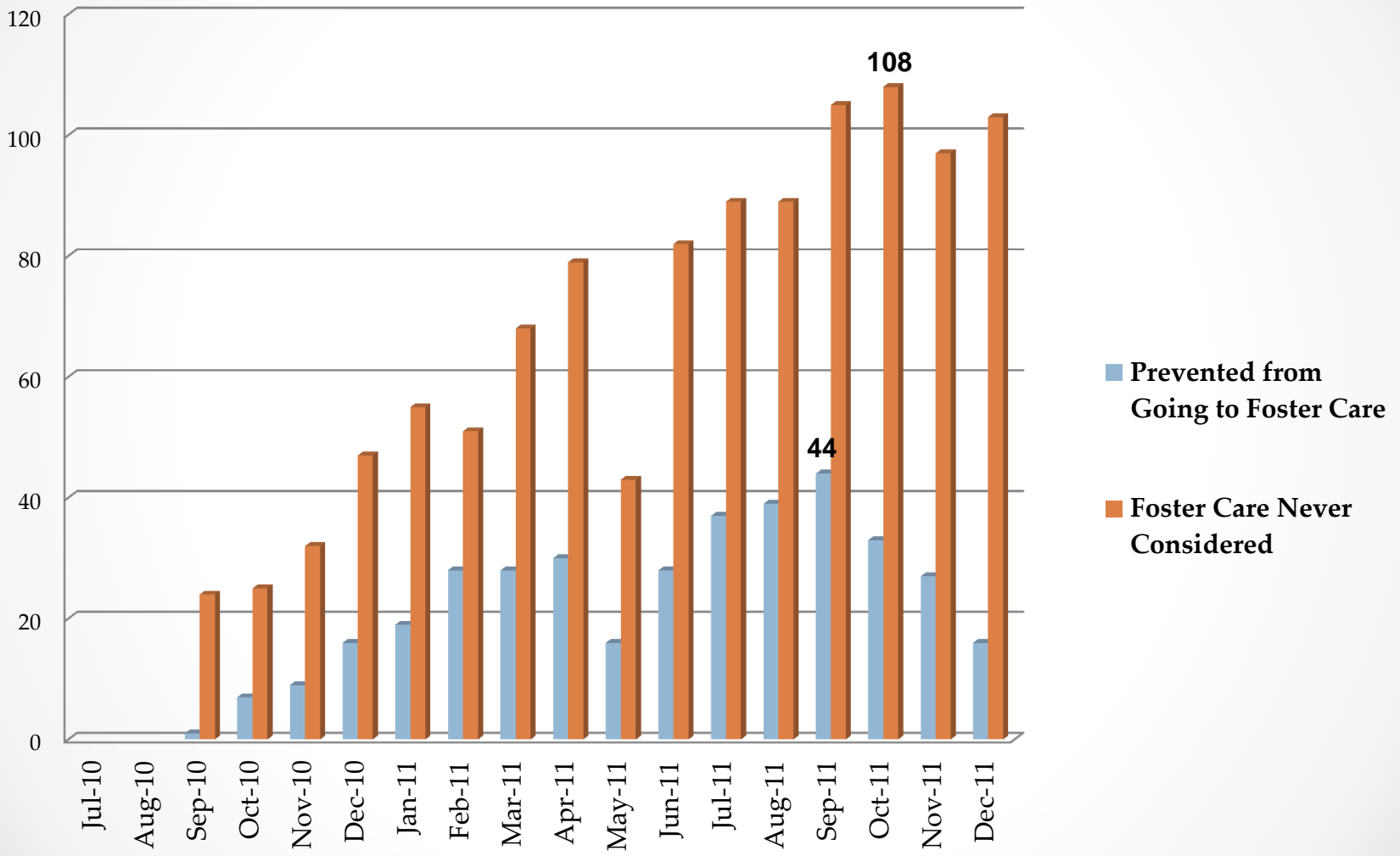
# FOSTER CARE STATUS



\* Figure includes duplicates

This program allowed for 8 kids to leave the foster care system and reunite with their parent.

## FOSTER CARE STATUS

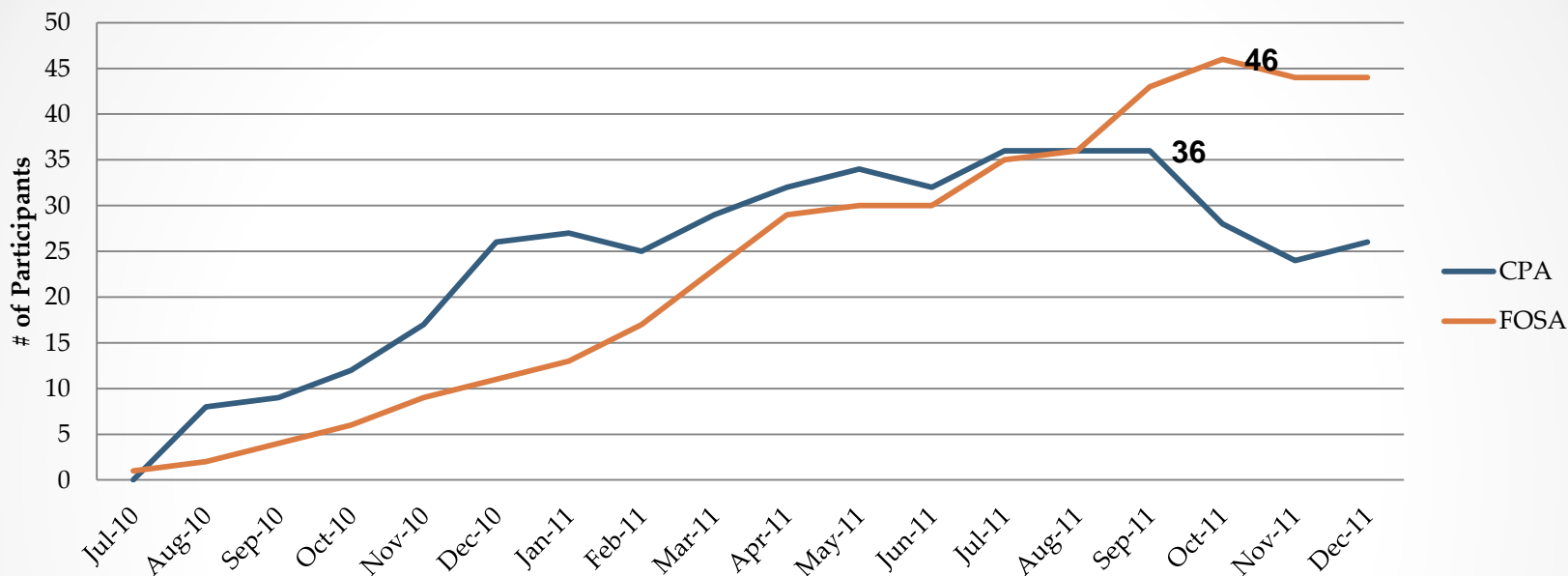


\* Figure includes duplicates

Forty-four children were diverted from entering the foster care system.

# PARENTING SENTENCING ALTERNATIVE

July 2010-December 2011



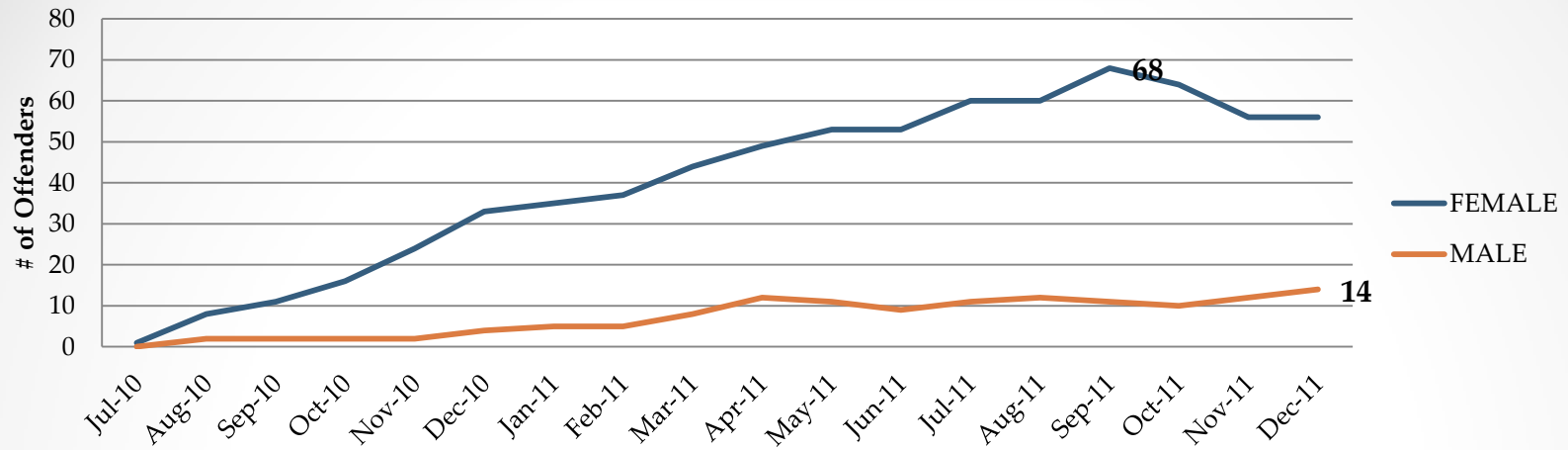
\* Figure includes duplicates

Total **CPA** = 83 or 60%

Total **FOSA** = 57 or 40%



## Gender Breakdown of Offenders

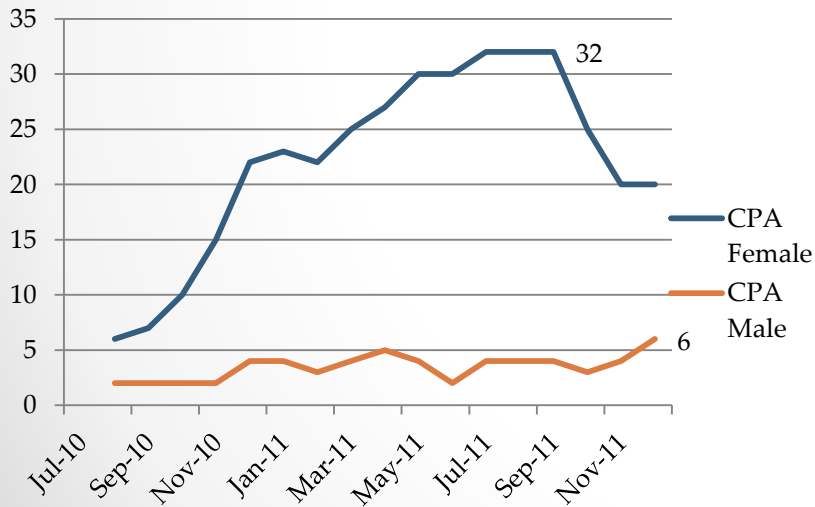


Total Females = 116

83%

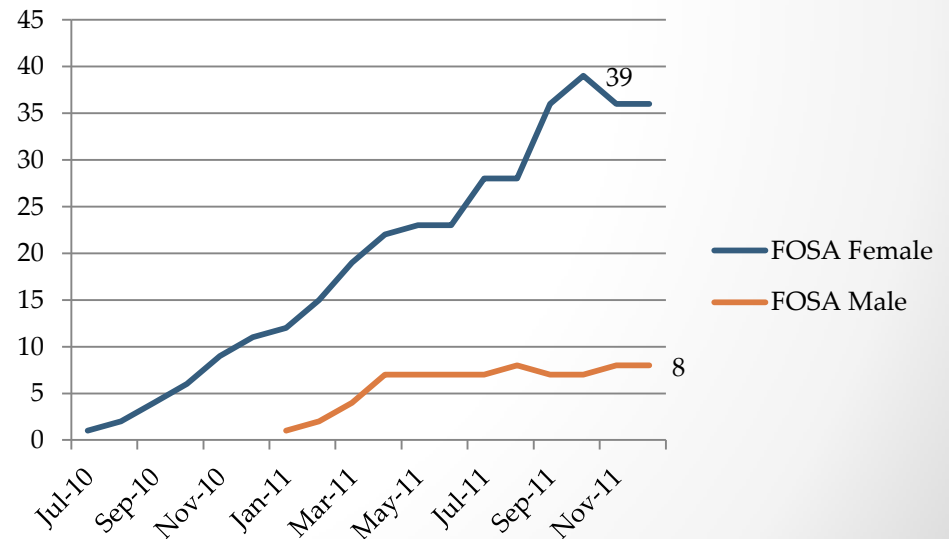
Total Males = 24

17%



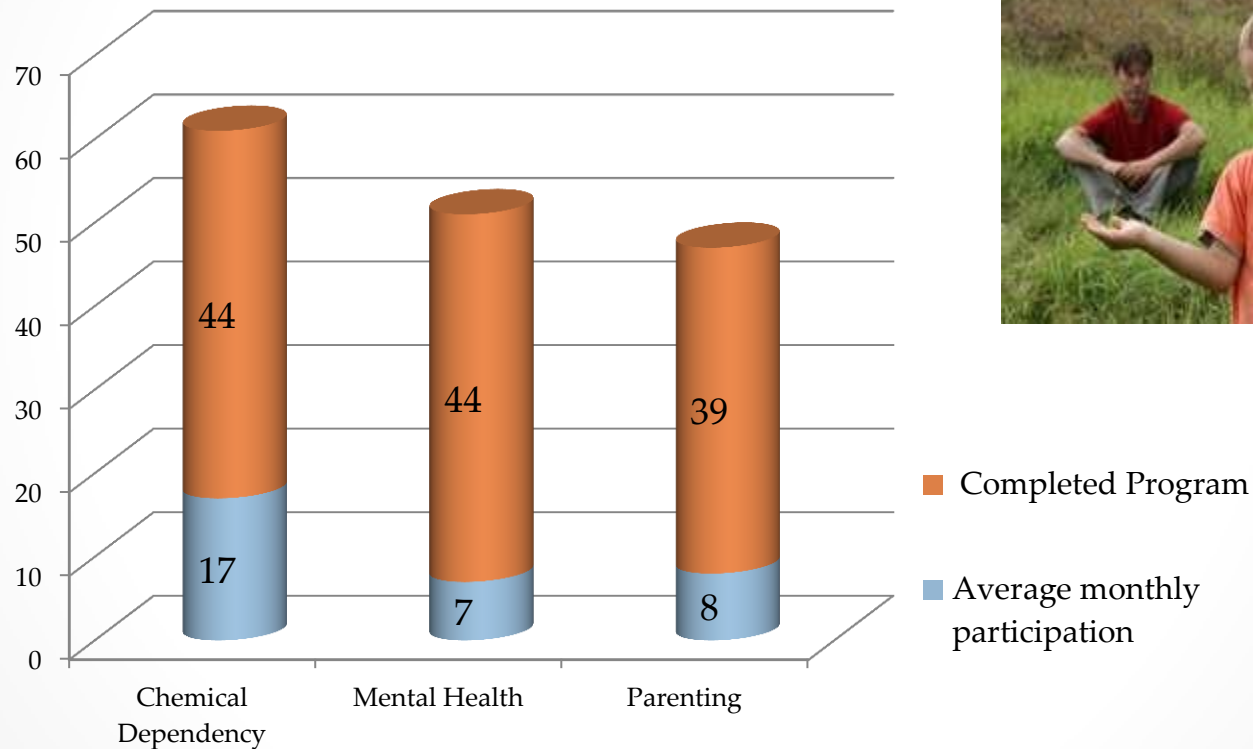
CPA Total Female – 70  
CPA Total Male - 13

*\* Figures include duplicates*



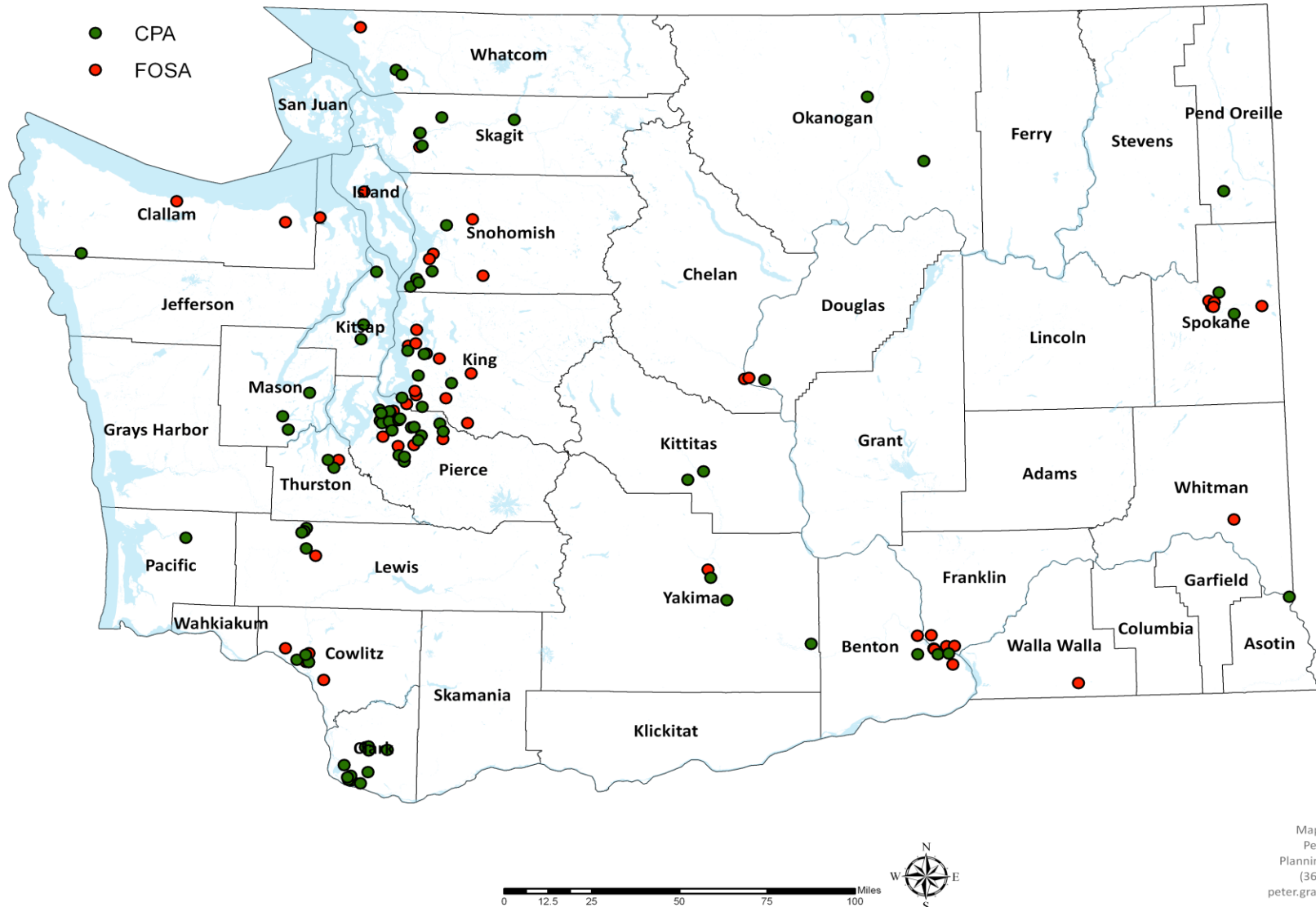
FOSA Total Female – 46  
FOSA Total Male - 11

# Participant Programming



Other programs include: AA/NA, Education/Vocation training, MRT, SAM, Faith Based Counseling

## Location of CPA and FOSA Offenders



## PROGRAM COMPLETIONS, REVOKES, and RETURN to PRISON RATES

Of the 56 participants who successfully completed the program none of the participants have re-offended during this reporting period.

### (57) FOSA – 40% of the population

- 6 participants were revoked ( 10% revoke rate among FOSA participants)
- 10 have successfully completed the program

### (83) CPA – 60% of the population

- 11 participants returned to prison ( 13% return to prison among CPA participants)
- 46 have successfully completed the program

### (140) PROGRAMS COMBINED

- FOSA is 4% revoked
- CPA is 7% return to prison



- *Revokes and Return to Prison were **not** due to a new crime – rather a violation of program condition.*

# Questions



# CONTACT INFORMATION



**Susie Leavell**, DOC Program Administrator

Phone ctc.: 360.725.8535

Email: [susan.leavell@doc.wa.gov](mailto:susan.leavell@doc.wa.gov)

**Katrina Avent**, DOC Program Manager

Phone ctc.: 360.509.3714

Email: [katrina.avent@doc.wa.gov](mailto:katrina.avent@doc.wa.gov)

**Teri Herold-Prayer**, DOC Research Manager

Phone ctc.: 360.725.8265

Email: [teri.herold-prayer@doc.wa.gov](mailto:teri.herold-prayer@doc.wa.gov)

**Carrie Kendig**, DSHS/CA Program Manager

Phone ctc.: 360.902.7568

Email: [carrie.kendig@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:carrie.kendig@dshs.wa.gov)